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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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S/S : MR. MOFFAT
---------- 072614
R 271639Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN, US

SUBJECT: NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL'S CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY. IN CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY, NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL SAID NEPAL ENCOURAGED BY ASSURANCES THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAINTAIN CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY, DESCRIBED NEPALESE REACTION TO RECENT SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS, AND INDICATED GON HOPE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND INTEREST WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. NEPALESE AMBASSADOR YADU NATH KHANAL ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY RIMAL CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY AUGUST 26.
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LAINGEN AND LORTON SAT IN.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO KHANAL'S PLEA FOR INTEREST IN NEPALESE AFFAIRS, DEPUTY SECRETARY COMMENTED HE ALWAYS HAD WANTED TO GO TO NEPAL AND WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT HIS PREDECESSOR'S EXPERIENCE VISITING THERE. DEPUTY SECRETARY INDICATED CONFIDENCE IN CONTINUED GOOD U.S.-NEPALESE RELATIONS.

4. KHANAL SAID GON HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY ASSURANCES OF CONTINUITY IN SECRETARY'S RECENT LETTER TO FON MIN KARKI. IN THIS CONNECTION HE RECALLED SHANGHAI COMMUNI-

QUE'S RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF SOUTH ASIA TO PEACE AND FREEDOM AND ASSURANCE THAT NEITHER PARTY WOULD NEGOTIATE OVER OR HAVE UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THIRD COUNTRIES, WHICH HE CALLED "VERY ENCOURAGING AND CORRECT LINE." HE ALSO REFERRED TO LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL REPORT ON FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS RECOGNITION OF SEPARATE IDENTITIES OF SMALL COUNTRIES WITHIN A REGIONAL SOUTH ASIAN SYSTEM AS WELL AS ITS STATEMENT THAT U.S. DOES NOT REGARD ANY COUNTRY AS WITHIN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE OF ANY OTHER. SUGGESTING SMALLER COUNTRIES CAN MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY, HE HOPED SPIRIT OF THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS WOULD PREVAIL DURING SECRETARY'S PROPOSED TRIP TO INDIA, BECAUSE THEY WERE KEY TO PEACE IN THAT AREA. HE CONCLUDED IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WAS IN NEPALESE INTEREST BUT SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY ASKED KHANAL FOR GON'S REACTION TO RECENT SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS. KHANAL SAID GON HOPED ENTITY OF SIKKIM WOULD REMAIN AND SIKKIMESE PEOPLE WOULD RETAIN PARTICIPATION IN THEIR ADMINISTRATION. HE NOTED ONLY CHINA HAD VOICED CONCERN, BUT DID NOT BELIEVE PRC CONTEMPLATED ANY ACTION. ANTICIPATED SOME TENSION "IF INDIA FAILS TO SATISFY ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE OF SIKKIM."

6. KHANAL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AFTER INDIAN RUPEES PROVIDED FOR USE IN AID TO NEPAL HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED, U.S. WOULD FIND WAY TO "CONTINUE, MAINTAIN, AND PERHAPS INCREASE" THE KIND OF INTEREST WE HAD TRADITIONALLY SHOWN
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THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. HE SAID ASSISTANCE HAD STRENGTHENED NEPALESE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND FEELING OF INDEPENDENCE AND CONTRIBUTED TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN REGION. CITING EDUCATION, POPULATION, AGRICULTURE, AND ROADS AS AREAS WERE RESOURCES WERE CURRENTLY BEING SPENT, HE STATED THE NEPALESE ARGUMENT THAT ROADS WERE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO REACH THE PEOPLE IN NEPAL'S RURAL AREAS.

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